



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

AUGUST 2021

SILENT AUCTION!

24 August 2021 at 1900

Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL
(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)

North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

FACE MASK REQUIRED - Charles County requirement

Silent Auction Procedures

Due to the Charles County Commissioners' new COVID restrictions, **all members** will wear masks the entire time. Our Potluck has been cancelled and our Auction has been modified to be a "Silent Auction" because of the mask requirements.

The various "lots" of rocks, minerals, fossils, and jewelry will be placed on the tables. Each lot will have a "bid sheet" for buyers to write their bids on. The bidding will be limited to 30 minutes --- then we will ask everyone to leave the meeting room and wait in the auditorium until the bids are tallied --- then the buyers will be called individually back into the meeting room to pay their bids and collect their lots. As with the prior auctions this should be fun.

JULY 2021 MINUTES

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:05 PM by Sondra

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: One new member attended and joined the club tonight

MEMBERSHIP: There are 33 members with up-to-date dues

PROGRAMS: August meeting is Pot Luck and Auction

EDITOR: Rich has been doing a great job putting out newsletters during the pandemic despite our club not meeting for a year and a half. He has also participated in numerous zoom meetings with other EFMLS editors sharing ideas for newsletters. The EFMLS newsletter has reprinted an article about Dave Lines find in Odessa, Delaware that appeared in our issue. Rich would like to have occasional small articles on what the

lapidary club has been doing and also short messages from the President.

WEBMASTER: SMRMC website completely changed and separate from Lapidary club. Bob will send new link to EFMLS

TREASURER: Joe will be taking over the collection of dues and membership forms from Dave. Motion made and seconded for Dave to provide a verbal treasurer report during club meetings and will have a hard copy available if anyone wants to see it

FIELD TRIPS:

7/31/21 National Limestone quarry in Mt Pleasant ,Pa. Blue Celestite has been found there recently and there has been a new blast, potential for new good material. Trip 9:30-1:30

8/21/21 Contrary Creek in Virginia, Sign up sheet passed around, Call or email Dave Lines if you are interested in going.

9/11/21 H.K. Penn Quarry MD/PA border is an area known for serpentine and numerous minerals, picrolite etc. A top quality mineral Williamsite has been found nearby.

Mindat.org is a good site to view pictures of specimens that can be found at quarries we go to, so you know what you are looking for.

Other trips that were discussed but not planned are:

9/24-25th/21 Mt Ida Arkansas Crystal dig competition. Price has increase from \$75 to \$150.

10/1-3/21 Graves Mountain semi annual swap and dig for kyanite with rutile and iridescent hematite.

Other areas of members interest to visit are Vulcan Manassas Quarry, Havre De Grace, Point of Rocks, Potomac Marble site, US Silica mine and Lamberton Creek.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion about buying a projector for presentations, Joe and Paula to supply one till we figure out what we need.

In the fall, Dave wants to start discussing holding a Rock Show in the auditorium.

ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned at 8:17 followed by refreshments, the program was members finds and trips during pandemic and ended with door prizes.

PROGRAMS

Programs, like field trips, serve an essential part of our club. They provide an opportunity for members to share and learn from others the many facets (pun intended) of rocks, fossils, geology, and minerals.

Think about how you can contribute to a future meeting. We love to learn. Hope to see you all soon. Carole

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2021 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
AUGUST	Traditional Club Auction	TBA
SEPTEMBER	TBA	TBA
OCTOBER	TBA	TBA
NOVEMBER	Elections / TBA	TBA
DECEMBER	Holiday Party	Pot Luck





SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB

(Please print legibly. Thank you.)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____ Apt/Unit #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Needed for communication during Field Trips

E-Mail: _____ Club Newsletter and Trip Notifications are distributed by email

Applying for: Individual Adult Membership : (over 18) (\$25.00/yr)

Family Membership: (\$35.00/yr)

Family is defined as one address. Maximum 2 adults living in same home and children under 18 years of age residing at same address.

(For Family Membership Only)

Name: _____ adult

Name: _____ adult #2 - Cell Phone: _____

Name: _____ youth age _____

Name: _____ youth age _____

Name: _____ youth age _____

Name: _____ youth age _____

I do hereby waive all rights to hold The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club, and its Officers liable for any personal injury or loss sustained by me or any member of my family while participating in club activities. I also agree to adhere to the rules and regulations of The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club, as set forth by its bylaws.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Make your check payable to "David Lines". (Do not write anything else on that line) On the Memo Line write "SMRMC" (and nothing else)

Please pay at a meeting or the mail check and Application form to:
David Lines
7970 Bel Alton Newtown Road, La Plata, MD 20646

Calendar of Events

Many events have been postponed/cancelled and/or rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please check with the sponsoring club to make sure the event has not been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic before attending any event.

October 30, 2021 ULTRAVIOLATION SHOW

Where: First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, PA

When: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

What: ULTRAVIOLATION is the ULTIMATE annual show for the fluorescent mineral enthusiast, whether a novice or serious collector. The show features many of the world's premier fluorescent mineral COLLECTORS AND DEALERS who strive each year to bring the biggest, brightest and best fluorescent minerals to satisfy the insatiable cravings of the fluorescent collector. ULTRAVIOLATION highlights fluorescent minerals exclusively and is the next best thing to night collecting. Free admission and a fluorescent mineral specimen for each junior mineralogist 12 years and younger when accompanied by an adult.

Admission: \$2.00 Donation, Children 12 & Under Free

Dealers: 8' TABLE \$30 – ½ TABLE \$15
ADVANCED REGISTRATION FOR DEALERS IS ADVISED

SEND YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:
Lee McIlvaine, 8510 Elliston Dr. Wyndmoor, PA 19038 Or PAYPAL electronic payment to leemcilvaine@yahoo.com
For information call Lee McIlvaine at 215-713-8020 or email uvgeologist@yahoo.com

Registration Open for the 2021

Wildacres Fall Session

(September 6 – 11/12, 2021)

<https://efmls.org/wildacres/>

REQUIREMENTS UPON CHECK-IN (Know before you go):

Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination

1. CDC issued COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card
2. Vaccine Passport

Policy Receipt Acknowledgment

Signed EFMLS Policy Receipt Acknowledgement Form of the Wildacres Commitment to Care.

Go [here](#) to review the Commitment to Care document (please check frequently before arriving. Last updated 6.14.21) Click [here](#) to download the EFMLS Policy Receipt Acknowledgement Form.

To expedite your arrival, please email a copy of proof of vaccination and your EFMLS Policy Receipt Acknowledgement Form to Wildacres2021@EFMLS.org.

For more information on the 2021 Wildacres Fall Session (Registration Form, Class Schedule & Speaker Info) email the address above and for any questions. Or call the Acting Chair of the Wildacres Working Group, Steve Weinberger at (410) 833-7926.

You can get a full refund if you cancel at least 30 days prior to the session.

Wildacres Retreat – School of Instruction

The EFMLS sponsors two workshop sessions each year in a cool mountain-top setting near Little Switzerland in North Carolina. Offered at the sessions are seminars in various facets of the earth sciences.

Indulge your passion for minerals, gems, jewelry, and craft. Join entry and intermediate level short classes. Enjoy programs from our great Speakers-in-Residence. Form new friendships and deepen old ones.

Do it all at Wildacres a beautiful retreat center atop the Blue Ridge Mountains. What could be better!

National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, PA

July 31, 2021 by Dave Lines

Free at last! Our first club Field Trip to a quarry since the fall of 2019! And what a great trip it turned out to be. Twenty (20) folks from the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club signed up and all 20 of them attended --- Sondra, Joe and Paula, Cheryl, Harry and Tina, Ralph G. and Mary, Ralph B., Orion and Kim, Jim, Tom Z., Mike, Tim F., Teresa and Alton, John V.W., Sam (guest), and Dave. The weather was fantastic --- a cool Pennsylvania start of 60 degrees warming to the high 70's on a mostly sunny day.

Wow! Everyone was happy to see each other as well as excited about the prospects of what would be found. It was just good to be out finding rocks again. We shared the quarry with 2 other clubs --- Delaware Valley and Baltimore Mineral Society who had 13 people between them.

The quarry owner Eric had said to meet him at the quarry office at 9:30 am, but he was there 30 minutes early chatting with everyone. He, too, was excited because they had completed a new shot just a week before and he wanted us to find and rescue the crystals before they went to the crusher. Eric has been letting rock clubs do this for over 30 years. Why? Because he uses the opportunity to tell everyone that the only price of admission to his quarry is to listen to his Christian testimony. Hundreds --- probably thousands --- of rock club visitors have heard him explain about becoming "born again" by putting their faith in Jesus Christ.

He also explained that the new shot (miner's term for a "blast of explosives that break up a large section of rock in a quarry") was immediately adjacent to where blue celestite crystals (a first for this location) had been found earlier this year and he hoped we would find more. He also described areas where we could also find calcite, wavelite and strontianite. He cautioned us to remain safety conscious and to stay away from the high walls. On that note, we caravanned into the quarry, parked our vehicles and spread out to look for specimens.

This is a limestone quarry where rock is crushed for road gravel (aggregate) as well as sorted into different sizes for rip rap or erosion control. It requires large rugged machinery like huge excavators and humongous haul trucks with 6 foot diameter tires in addition to fixed machinery such as rock crushers.

The area of the recent shot was very obvious where the blast had knocked down a section of the eastern highwall about 200 feet wide and about 40 feet back into the wall. During the week or so since the shot, there had already been significant mining activity to separate out the different rock types and sizes --- larger boulders were being separated into a pile for further reduction in size; smaller weathered rock into another pile; and a haul road had been made through the rubble of broken rock. There were many places to begin our searches for crystals, so we spread out and began investigating. Within a few minutes one could hear the sounds of rock hammers tentatively chipping rocks throughout the quarry.

My initial walk around showed that there were quite a few larger boulders which had vugs or holes containing calcite crystals ranging from druzy up to ½ inch. I also saw some purple fluorite in both massive white calcite and in seams directly in dark gray limestone. I did not see any blue celestite, although someone showed me a small specimen of what looked to be clear, dogtooth shaped calcite crystals about 1/4 inch tall. This crystal habit was different than any calcite I had previously observed at Mount Pleasant Mills. I should have stopped right there and investigated further --- but I did not.

Some of the group began doing some more serious splitting of the large boulders using chisels and sledge hammers. Joe, Harry, Tina and Paula were especially active doing this and had amassed numerous nice plates and clusters of calcite crystals including some with dogtooth shaped habit. And interestingly, some of these, when viewed with a 10 power loupe, showed tiny creamy white colored balls on the crystals. We assumed the whitish balls were either calcite or strontianite.

Most of the activity seemed to center along the eastern edge of the haul road. I saw Kim and Orion with a nice group of calcite clusters. Sam had a wheelbarrow full of limestone that was laced with pockets of calcite crystals. Ralph G. and Mary had found numerous calcite clusters including a nice one of honey colored calcite crystals about 3/4 inch in diameter. Sondra, Cheryl, Ralph B., Tom, and Alton and Teresa all found nice plates of sparkly calcite crystals.

I decided to explore a different area of the quarry that was above the quarry

floor and to the left of the shot. Access had been described by Eric as a “steep road”. It was very steep --- 30 to 40 degrees in places. I told a couple of our club members to watch for me and I would signal them if I found anything worthwhile up there. The top was a very rough area that contained a pit about 100 feet across that had sloping sides covered with smaller rocks. I carefully walked/climbed across one side and down into the bottom looking for specimens while leaving strips of newspaper marking the numerous areas where were crystals showing. I saw lots of flowstone (travertine) from the inside of an ancient limestone cave --- some with interesting formations. I called several of our club members on their cell phones --- only to reach their answering service --- so I left messages for them to come join me. I finally reached Harry and he spread the word and eventually about 5 or 6 folks came up and collected specimens. I worked there about two hours collecting about two 5 gallon buckets full of wrapped specimens.

Since my wife and I had driven up the day before to visit a cousin at an assisted living facility, my wife had our car and had left me at the quarry without a vehicle. Joe and Paula had graciously ferried me and my tools to the quarry floor. My wife had promised to come pick me up at the quarry office at 2 pm, so I walked out of the quarry and met her. Then I returned to the quarry with our car to pick up my tools and my rocks.

There were only 6 people remaining in the quarry --- 2 from the Baltimore club and 4 from Southern Maryland --- Joe, Paula, Harry and Tina. And just before leaving, I checked out with them. Harry showed me a beautiful small cluster of blue

dogtooth shaped crystals about ¼ inch high. I was skeptical at first, but with the loupe, they were definitely a nice light blue and some had little white balls on them --- strontianite on blue celestite crystals???

And Joe was breaking them out of a huge vuggy boulder. Oh, I wished I could have stayed at that point, but we had a long drive back and I wanted to be home before dark, so I bid them all good luck and a good bye.

For the next few days, folks started sending me pictures of what they had found --- and several had those dogtooth crystals -- some clear and some blue. Sam shed some crucial information on them by noting that he had found both types – clear and blue. Blue celestite is very sensitive to light and will lose its blue color in sunlight. Sam said the dogtooth habit crystals that he collected that had been exposed to sunlight were clear – and the ones that he had broken out from the inside of rocks were blue. Bingo. Were they both celestite?

Ralph G. (a chemical engineer by profession) added another twist --- he tested his clear dogtooth crystals with weak hydrochloric acid --- and they emitted bubbles --- a classic indication that they were calcite crystals. Dilemma. So I Googled the chemical composition of celestite --- and Wikipedia says it is SrSO₄ --- strontium sulfate --- and Wikipedia further stated “SrSO₄ sometimes contains minor calcium and/or barium.” Could the calcium be in the form of calcite (CaCO₃)? My best guess is that these clear and blue dogtooth habit crystal specimens are all indeed celestite. If we could get Dr. Lance Kearns (or his PhD wife Cindy) at JMU to test them, we would know for certain. Tom Z. found some nice blue celestite with white strontianite crystal balls on the specimen. (see close up picture)

We will give a special shout out to Joe who changed the flat tire of one of the Baltimore club members (Lyle). Makes it kind of well deserving that he found that big boulder full of celestite crystals. Thanks Joe --- rockhounds like you are what makes our hobby so great.

Many of us wait until we were home to trim and clean up our finds. I suspect that everyone was pleased if their specimens cleaned up as beautifully as mine did with just a garden hose. I was pleasantly surprised at a specimen that Ralph B. gave me just before I departed. It was a very dirty, fist sized piece (actually 2 pieces) of matrix with druzy calcite crystals and one broken/split white ball which I assumed to be strontianite on one edge. As it turned out, when I washed the dirt and mud off it with a hose, the strontianite balls (many more than I had seen) turned white and were spread all over the piece. The 2 pieces fit together perfectly to make a stunning specimen. Thank you Ralph!

Overall, our trip to National Limestone’s quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills was terrific. Great weather. Interesting and beautiful specimens were plentiful enough for everyone (with some work) to find some. And we all stayed safe both driving and at the quarry. See you next time.



Celestite specimens --- classic light blue color – crystals are “pointed” (dog toothed habit) --- best specimen is in upper center – “white calcite balls on blue celestite dogtooth xls – all on calcite druzey xls in a vug in limestone”. **Collected and photographed by Tina and Harry T**



Blue Celestite crystals with Strontianite collected by Tom Z.



Classic Honey Calcite Crystals on Matrix Collected and Photographed by Ralph G.



Upper Left - White Strontianite Balls on Druzy Calcite Crystals

Upper Right / Lower Left - Flats of Calcite Crystals

Photographed and Collected by Dave L.



Upper Left - Calcite Crystal 1-1/4 inch long
Upper Right - Druzy Calcite
Lower Left - Calcite Crystals
Photographed and Collected by Dave L.



ANTIGORITE - can be found at the Haines & Kibblehouse Penn-Maryland Quarry, PA (HK Penn Quarry)



PICROLITE can be found at the Haines & Kibblehouse Penn-Maryland Quarry, PA (HK Penn Quarry)

Silent Auction Bid Sheet (10% of bid goes to SMRMC ---100% if donated)

Name of Specimen _____

Location (where from) _____

Specimen Provider (owner) _____

Starting (minimum acceptable) bid _____

Your Name (please print) Your Bid (\$1 increments)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____





The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club
Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month at
7:00pm
Held at the OLD WALDORF SCHOOL
Next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall
3074 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20601
North of the RT 301 / RT 5 intersection
We're on the web: SMRMC.ORG

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ITEMS WANTED/FOR SALE

For Sale – Virginia Unakite slabs (approx ¼ inch thick) – \$0.50 per square inch (this is half off regular price). Call Dave (240) 427-7062

